

1 1. A communication system for passing over a twisted
2 wire pair network communication between a plurality of
3 terminal devices, including one or more telephones, and a
4 plurality of information services, including a telephone
5 exchange and other information services, comprising:
6 a main information interface coupled to the information
7 services;

8 a twisted pair wiring network coupled to the terminal
9 devices and to the main information interface, including a
10 plurality of active telephone pairs for passing voice
11 signals between the telephone exchange and the one or more
12 telephones;

13 wherein the information interface includes circuitry
14 for combining on the active telephone pairs (a) telephone
15 signals in a telephone frequency band passing between the
16 telephone exchange and the one or more telephones and (b)
17 high frequency signals in a high band of frequencies higher
18 than those of the telephone frequency band passing
19 information between the other information services and one
20 or more of the terminal devices.

1 2. The communication system of claim 1 wherein the
2 other information services includes a data network and the
3 plurality of terminal devices includes a computer, and
4 wherein the main information interface further includes a
5 data hub for passing information between the computer and
6 the data network.

1 3. The communication system of claim 2 wherein the
2 other information services further includes a television
3 distribution service.

1 4. The communication system of claim 2 wherein the
2 twisted pair wiring network includes a plurality of cables
3 coupled to the main information interface and to the
4 terminal devices, and the cables form branching paths from
5 the main information interface to the terminal devices, and
6 the wiring network includes junctions at branch points of
7 the cables for reducing degradation of signals in the high
8 frequency band.

1 5. The system of claim 1 wherein the plurality of
2 terminal devices includes a television receiver and an
3 associated remote control device, and the main information
4 interface includes a video selector that is coupled to one
5 of the information services and that includes a receiver for
6 accepting control information sent from the remote control
7 device over the twisted pair wiring network in the high
8 frequency band and a transmitter for providing a television
9 signal to the television receiver over the twisted pair
10 wiring network in the high frequency band in response to the
11 control information.

1 6. The system of claim 5 wherein the video selector
2 includes a tuner for selecting a television broadcast.

1 7. The system of claim 6 wherein the video selector
2 includes a computer coupled to a data network, and the
3 control information includes information identifying a
4 source of video information on the data network.

1 8. The communication system of claim 1 further
2 comprising privacy circuitry for preventing information
3 passing between a terminal device and an information service
4 from passing to another terminal device.

1 9. The system of claim 8 wherein the plurality of
2 information services includes a data network and the privacy
3 circuitry includes a data hub that has a plurality of ports
4 coupled to terminal devices and a port coupled to the data
5 network and the data hub includes circuitry for inhibiting
6 transmission of data received on one port that is coupled to
7 a terminal device to ports coupled to other terminal
8 devices.

1 10. The system of claim 9 wherein the hub further
2 includes circuitry for inhibiting transmission of data
3 addressed to a terminal device that is received on the port
4 coupled to the data network to ports other than the port to
5 which the addressed terminal device is coupled.

1 11. The system of claim 1 further comprising circuitry
2 for reducing degradation of signals passing over the wiring
3 network.

1 12. The system of claim 11 wherein the circuitry for
2 reducing degradation of signals includes circuitry for
3 amplifying signals, and circuitry for equalizing signals.

1 13. The system of claim 11 wherein the plurality of
2 information services includes a data network, and the system
3 further includes a data hub coupled through a plurality of
4 ports to the wiring network, and the circuitry for reducing
5 degradation of signals passing over the wiring network
6 includes circuitry for reducing crosstalk between wire pairs
7 coupled to the plurality ports.

1 14. The system of claim 1 further comprising a media
2 converter, wherein the media converter is coupled to an
3 information service over a number of conductors and is
4 coupled to the wiring network over a fewer number of
5 conductors, and the media converter includes circuitry for

6 receiving information from the information service over the
7 number of conductors and transmitting that information onto
8 the wiring network over the fewer number of conductors.

1 15. The system of claim 14 wherein the media adapter
2 converts 10BaseT signals received over two wire pairs to a
3 signal transmitted onto one wiring pair.

1 16. A method for passing over a twisted wire pair
2 network communication between a plurality of terminal
3 devices, including one or more telephones, and a plurality
4 of information services, including a telephone exchange and
5 other information services, the method comprising:

6 passing voice signals between the telephone exchange
7 and the one or more telephones over active telephone pairs
8 of a twisted wire network which coupled the information
9 services and the terminal devices;

10 combining on the active telephone pairs (a) telephone
11 signals in a telephone frequency band passing between the
12 telephone exchange and the one or more telephones and (b)
13 high frequency signals in a high band of frequencies higher
14 than those of the telephone frequency band passing
15 information between the other information services and one
16 or more of the terminal devices.